

[Translation]

Special Flower on the Top of Sugarcane

4864. SHRI DHIRENDRA AGARWAL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that a special kind of flower has started growing at the top of sugarcane in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether the quantity of sugar in sugarcane has decreased due to growth of the said flower; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) :

(a) Yes, Sir. Abnormal flowering in some varieties of sugarcane has been observed in parts of Uttar Pradesh during 1996-97 due to congenial climatic conditions.

(b) Flowering adversely affects the juice quality causing reduction in the sugar. However, the reduction in the sugar is not significant if the crushing of such canes is completed within two months of flowering. Sugar percentage in cane decreases in case of late crushing of profusely flowered cane only.

(c) State Government have informed that the sugar factories have been advised to arrange for timely crushing of the flowered sugarcane.

[English]

Smuggling of Arms

4865. SHRI B.K. GADHVI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to news item captioned "Trafficking of Arms on the Indo-Pakistan border in the Rann of Kutch" appearing in 'Indian Express', dated March 6, 1997;

(b) if so, whether this vulnerable point for infiltration and smuggling of arms and drugs has been identified;

(c) if so, the steps taken to combat the illegal activities across the border; and

(d) the measures taken or proposed to be taken to protect this area from attack and check the anti-social elements in the Rann of Kutch?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The following steps have been taken to combat the illegal activities of anti-social elements:

- (i) Deployment of BSF on Gujarat border has been strengthened;
- (ii) Patrolling of BSF on Gujarat border has been strengthened;
- (iii) Patrolling-Nakas have been increased/intensified, and mounted patrolling on camels and tractors is being done;
- (iv) Feasibility studies are being conducted for construction of ditch-cum-bund and barbed-wire fencing on Gujarat border;
- (v) OP towers have been erected.
- (vi) Binoculars, Goggles, Twin telescopes, PNV binoculars and hand held search lights have been provided for enhanced vigilance on the border.
- (vii) Two medium crafts, five Mechanised boats and 14 speed boats have been deployed to cover the creek area. Also there is a proposal to establish six floating BOPs in the creek area.
- (viii) For better coordination in creek/coastal areas, an exercise 'Jal Rekha' was conducted at Koteswar on 10th & 11th March, 1997.

Delhi Police

4866. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Beleaguered Police Unable to Check Rise in Crime" appearing in 'Statesman', dated December 29, 1996, which referred to a study wherein it was found that over 80 per cent of the police officers are suffering from psychic disorders in Delhi because of their hectic duties and heavy pressure on them; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to the study made, there is a high prevalence of psychological problems in the police personnel. The study, however, admits that whether it is comparable with other occupations or jobs is not known. It needs to be added that the study was based on a sample survey and self-reports.